

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2002BOGOTA01807

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

<<<>>>

(E74)

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ1492

PAGE 01      BOGOTA   01807   01 OF 03   260025Z  
ACTION SCT-00

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B4

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-01
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIP-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00
	DINT-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-00	FCC-01	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-00
	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/016W				

-----6B803F   260025Z /38

O 260023Z FEB 02  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7077  
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
DIRONDCP WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USEU BRUSSELS  
CIA WASHDC  
DOE HQS FORRESTAL BLDG WASHINGTON DC  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02      BOGOTA   01807   01 OF 03   260025Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 001807

STATE FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/12  
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, PHUM, MOPS, PREF, SNAR, CO  
SUBJECT: FARC ATTACKS ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE

REF: BOGOTA 00758

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
DATE/CASE ID: 02 JUL 2004 200303455

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2002BOGOTA01807

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON FOR REASONS  
1.5 (B) AND (D).

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

1. (SBU) SINCE THE END OF THE DESPEJE ON FEBRUARY 21, THE FARC HAVE UNLEASHED A SERIES OF DEBILITATING ATTACKS ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE, LEAVING LARGE PARTS OF SOUTHERN COLOMBIA WITHOUT ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE. THE FARC HAVE ALSO SET UP ROADBLOCKS AND DESTROYED KEY LAND ARTERIES IN AND AROUND THE EX-DESPEJE. RUMORS, WHICH APPEAR FALSE, OF THE FARC PLACING CONTAMINATES IN THE WATER SYSTEMS OF VARIOUS SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES FORCED THOUSANDS TO AVOID USING WATER FOR SEVERAL DAYS. END SUMMARY.

-----  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01807 01 OF 03 260025Z  
ENERGY: BLACKOUTS & PIPELINE ATTACKS  
-----

2. (U) ON FEBRUARY 24, THE FARC DYNAMITED AN ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION IN PATIA AND NUMEROUS PYLONS IN EL ESTANQUILLO (SOUTHERN CAUCA DEPARTMENT), CUTTING OFF POWER TO 15 TOWNS IN CAUCA DEPARTMENT, SECTIONS OF NARINO DEPARTMENT, AND SMALL PARTS OF NORTHERN ECUADOR WHICH RECEIVE ELECTRICITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. ON FEBRUARY 21, THE FARC ATTACKED AN ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION IN ALTAMIRA (HUILA DEPARTMENT WHICH BORDERS THE EX-DESPEJE), SEVERING ELECTRICITY TO 20 MUNICIPALITIES IN HUILA AND THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT OF CAQUETA, WHOSE NORTHERN MUNICIPALITY OF SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN FORMED PART OF THE EX-DESPEJE. ON THE SAME DAY, THE FARC DESTROYED AN ELECTRICAL TOWER IN TIMBA (CAUCA DEPARTMENT) CAUSING SPORADIC POWER OUTAGES IN THE LOCAL REGION. [NOTE: IN THE PAST 3 YEARS, ATTACKS ON COLOMBIA'S ELECTRICAL GRID BY EITHER THE FARC OR ELN HAVE FELLED OVER 1,000 TOWERS AND CAUSED THE PRIMARY OWNER, "INTERCONEXION ELECTRICA S.A.," TO LOSE ROUGHLY USD 25 MILLION, AS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. END NOTE.]

3. (U) ON FEBRUARY 21, THE FARC DYNAMITED THE SEBASTOPOL-MEDELLIN GAS PIPELINE NEAR BARBOSA (ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT), RESULTING IN THE SUSPENSION OF GAS TO 566 INDUSTRIES BY MEDELLIN PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANY. THE

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

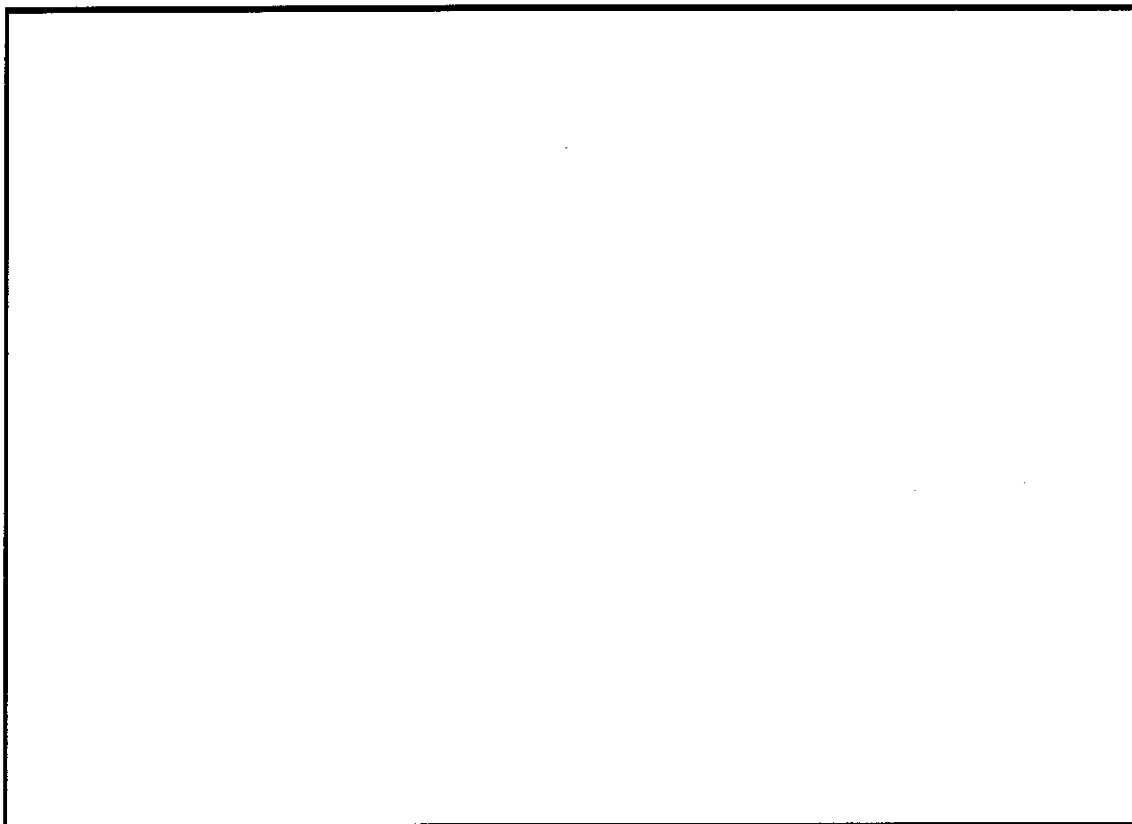
Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2002BOGOTA01807

Page: 3  
Channel: n/a

NATIONAL DAILY "EL TIEMPO" REPORTED THAT "TRANSMETANO"  
GAS COMPANY GENERAL MANAGER RAFAEL YEPES SAID THE  
PIPELINE HAD BEEN ATTACKED TWICE ON FEBRUARY 20. GAS  
SERVICE WAS REPORTEDLY RESTORED ON FEBRUARY 23.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 01807 01 OF 03 260025Z



B1, B4

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ1493

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01807 02 OF 03 260025Z  
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-01
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIP-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00
	DINT-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-00	FCC-01	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2002BOGOTA01807

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

G-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /016W  
-----6B804C 260026Z /38

O 260023Z FEB 02  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7078  
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
DIRONDCP WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USEU BRUSSELS  
CIA WASHDC  
DOE HQS FORRESTAL BLDG WASHINGTON DC  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01807 02 OF 03 260025Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 001807

STATE FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/12  
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, PHUM, MOPS, PREF, SNAR, CO  
SUBJECT: FARC ATTACKS ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE

B1, B4

-----  
TELECOMMUNICATION: PHONE SERVICE DOWN  
-----

6. (U) ON FEBRUARY 23, THE FARC DESTROYED A REPEATING STATION BELONGING TO THE STATE-OWNED NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION ENTERPRISE ("TELECOM") IN MONTANITAS (CAQUETA DEPARTMENT), LEAVING THE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE. ON FEBRUARY 22, THE FARC BOMBED A TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER NEAR FUSAGASUGA IN CUNDINAMARCA DEPARTMENT (APPROXIMATELY 50 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BOGOTA), LEAVING SIX TOWNS IN TOLIMA DEPARTMENT AND 13 IN CUNDINAMARCA DEPARTMENT WITHOUT LOCAL AND LONG-

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE. SEVERAL TOWNS IN NORTHERN BOYACA DEPARTMENT ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY WITHOUT TELEPHONE SERVICE DUE TO FARC ATTACKS ON TOWERS IN THAT DEPARTMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01807 02 OF 03 260025Z

ROADS: NO SAFE PASSAGE

7. (U) THE FARC HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK THE MAJOR LAND ARTERIES IN AND OUT OF THE DESPEJE. SINCE FEBRUARY 21, THE FARC HAVE SET UP CHECKPOINTS AND ROADBLOCKS, AND PLACED MINES, ALONG THE FLORENCIA-SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN HIGHWAY, THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE BETWEEN CAQUETA AND META DEPARTMENTS. [NOTE: THE FLORENCIA-SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN HIGHWAY IS WHERE INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE INGRID BETANCOURT WAS KIDNAPPED ON FEBRUARY 23 -- SEE SEPTTEL. END NOTE.] ALSO ON FEBRUARY 21, THE FARC DESTROYED A BRIDGE LINKING FLORENCIA AND NEIVA (CAPITAL OF HUILA DEPARTMENT) AND A BRIDGE BETWEEN TIBU AND LA GABARRA (NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT).

WATER: FALSE RUMORS CAUSE STOPPAGES

8. (U) ON FEBRUARY 22, LOCAL OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT THE FARC HAD PLACED AN UNIDENTIFIED TOXIN IN THE WATER SYSTEM OF PITALITO (HUILA DEPARTMENT) AND DIESEL FUEL IN PASTO'S WATER SYSTEM (CAPITAL OF NARINO DEPARTMENT). LOCAL RESIDENTS IN PITALITO (APPROXIMATELY 100,000) AND PASTO (APPROXIMATELY 250,000), WERE ADVISED NOT TO USE THE WATER AND LOCAL HOSPITALS WERE PLACED ON MAXIMUM ALERT. ON FEBRUARY 24, PASTO RESUMED SERVICE AFTER DETERMINING THAT THE FUEL, WHICH WAS REMOVED FROM THE WATER SYSTEM, HAD NOT CONTAMINATED THE WATER SUPPLY. ON FEBRUARY 25,

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BOGOTA 01807 02 OF 03 260025Z

THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT PITALITO'S WATER SUPPLY HAD NOT BEEN CONTAMINATED AND WAS SAFE TO USE. NO LOCAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES REPORTED CASES OF WATER-RELATED ILLNESS. [NOTE: THESE ALLEGATIONS OF WATER TAMPERING COME ON THE HEELS OF THE FARC'S ATTACK ON THE GOLILLAS DAM ON JANUARY 20, WHICH, IF IT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL, WOULD HAVE CRIPPLED BOGOTA'S WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (REFTEL). END NOTE.]

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2002BOGOTA01807

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 6

Channel: n/a

-----  
COMMENT  
-----

9. (C) ALTHOUGH THE FULL IMPACT OF THE ATTACKS IS NOT YET KNOWN, LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE ENDURED CONSIDERABLE HARDSHIPS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS AT THE HANDS OF THE FARC. NORMAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS BATHING, COOKING, AND USING THE TELEPHONE, HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED. IN ADDITION, LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE LIKELY SUFFERING FROM THE INABILITY TO TRANSPORT GOODS, RECEIVE EXPECTED SUPPLIES, AND MAINTAIN INVENTORIES, ESPECIALLY REFRIGERATED PRODUCTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ1494

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01807 03 OF 03 260025Z  
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-01
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIP-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00
	DINT-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-00	FCC-01	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-00
	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/016W				

-----6B804F 260026Z /38

O 260023Z FEB 02  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7079  
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
DIRONDCP WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 2002BOGOTA01807

Page: 7  
Channel: n/a

USEU BRUSSELS  
CIA WASHDC  
DOE HQS FORRESTAL BLDG WASHINGTON DC  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01807 03 OF 03 260025Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 001807

STATE FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/12  
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, PHUM, MOPS, PREF, SNAR, CO  
SUBJECT: FARC ATTACKS ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE



PATTERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 7

UNCLASSIFIED

B  
1